(b) Not applicable.

(c) An amount of Rs. 1760.00 crore has been allotted under Plan this year (2008-09) for Agro research for ICAR.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) For effective utilization of technologies, the ICAR has created a network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in 562 rural districts of the country. The activities of KVKs include on-farm trials to identify the location specificity of technologies under various farming systems, frontline demonstrations to establish the production potential of improved agricultural technologies on the farmers' fields, training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills and training of extension personnel to orient them in the frontier areas of technology development. A large number of extension activities including advisory services, diagnostics visits, field days, group discussions, kisan melas, kisan gosthies, film shows and exhibitions are organized by the KVKs to create awareness of improved technologies among the farmers.

During 2007-08, the KVKs also produced 1.11 lakh q of seeds, 91.29 lakh saplings/seedlings, 40.80 lakh fingerlings and other livestock/poultry strains, besides 8.94 lakh kg bio-products for its availability to the farmers.

Decline in the production of rice

1249. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of rice in the country in the previous three years has fallen below the set targets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has taken remedial measures to arrest this downward trend;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the plan of Government to boost production to meet the growing demand; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. The production of rice in the country during the previous three years (2005-06 to 2007-08) is higher than the corresponding target and shows continuous increase over these years as shown in the table below:

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Production	Target
2005-06	91.79	87.80
2006-07	93.35	92.80
2007-08	96.43	93.00

* Fourth Advance Estimate released on 09.07.2008

(b) to (f) Do not arise.